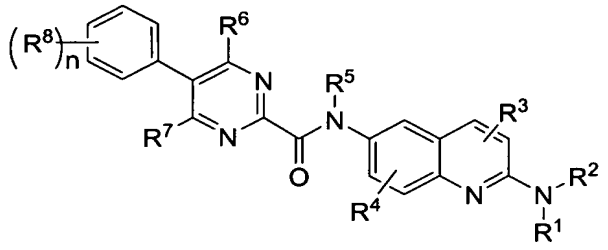
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13. (canceled)

Claim 14. (new) A compound of general formula [I]:



[I]

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of:

(1) optionally hydroxyl- or halogen-substituted lower alkyl,

(2) optionally R^9-substituted 3 to 6-membered cycloalkyl, and

(3) optionally R^9-substituted 4 to 6-membered heterocycloalkyl, or

(4) R^1 and R^2 together form a 4 to 11-membered crosslinking, non-crosslinking or spiro ring aliphatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle, with the nitrogen atom to which they bind, one or two optional hydrogen atoms in the aliphatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle being optionally substituted with R^9;

R^3, R^4, R^6 and R^7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) hydroxyl,

(3) halogen, and

(4) optionally halogen-substituted lower alkyl;

R^5 stands for:

(1) hydrogen, or

(2) optionally halogen-substituted lower alkyl;

each R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of:

(1) halogen,

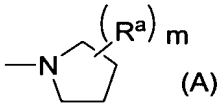
(2) lower alkyl, and

(3) lower alkyloxy;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, amino, mono-lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, optionally hydroxyl- or halogen-substituted lower alkyl, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)amino, lower alkyloxycarbonyl- (lower alkyl)amino, lower alkylcarbonylamino, lower alkylcarbonyl(lower alkyl)amino, mono-lower alkylcarbamoyl-(lower alkyl)amino, di-lower alkylcarbamoyl(lower alkyl)amino, lower alkylsulfonylamino, lower alkylsulfonyl(lower alkyl)amino, oxo and 2-oxopyrrolidinyl; and
n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 15. (new) The compound according to Claim 14, wherein: R^1 is lower alkyl, and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of optionally hydroxyl-substituted lower alkyl, tetrahydrofuranyl and optionally R^9-substituted pyrrolidinyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 16. (new) The compound according to Claim 14, wherein: the 4 to 11-membered crosslinking, non-crosslinking or spiro ring aliphatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle formed by R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind is represented by a formula (A):

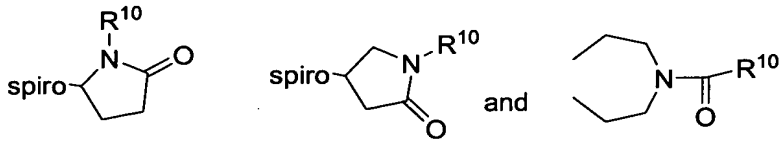


(A)

wherein R^a is R^9 or two R^as together form $-(CH_2)x-(NH)-(CH_2)y-$, hydrogen in the substituent group may optionally be substituted with lower alkyl, lower alkylcarbonyl or oxo, x and y are each independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, provided that $3 \leqq x + y \leqq 4$, and m is selected from 0, 1 or 2; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 17. (new) The compound according to Claim 16, wherein:
R^a is selected from the group consisting of lower alkylcarbonyl(lower alkyl)amino, lower alkylsulfonyl(lower alkyl)amino, lower alkyloxycarbonyl(lower alkyl)amino, and di-lower alkylcarbamoyl(lower alkyl)amino, and
m=1;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 18. (new) The compound according to Claim 16, wherein: m=2, and the two R^as together form a group selected from the group consisting of:



wherein: R^{10} is selected from lower alkyl and lower alkylcarbonyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 19. (new) The compound according to Claim 16, wherein: the aliphatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by the formula (A) is selected from the group consisting of:
1-methyl-2-oxo-1,7-diazaspiro[4.4]nonan-7-yl, 7-methyl-8-oxo-2,7-diazaspiro[4.4]nonan-2-yl, 3-[acetyl(methyl)amino]pyrrolidin-1-yl, 3-[propionyl(methyl)amino]pyrrolidin-1-yl, 3-[isobutyryl(methyl)-amino]pyrrolidin-1-yl, 3-[methanesulfonyl(methyl)amino]pyrrolidin-1-yl, 3-[methoxycarbonyl(methyl) amino]pyrrolidin-1-yl, 3-{[(dimethylamino)carbonyl](methyl)amino}pyrrolidin-1-yl, 6-acetyldecahydro-pyrrolo[3,4-d]azepin-2-yl, and 2-oxo[1.3']bipyrrolidinyl-1'-yl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 20. (new) The compound according to Claim 14, wherein: R^8 is a fluorine atom or a methoxy group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 21. (new) The compound according to Claim 14, wherein: selected from the group consisting of:

(1) 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[2-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,7-diazaspiro[4,4]nonan-7-yl)-6-quinolinyl]-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,
(2) 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[2-(7-methyl-8-oxo-2,7-diazaspiro[4,4]-nonan-2-yl)-6-quinolinyl]-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,
(3) N-(2-[(3R)-3-[isobutyryl(methyl)amino]-1-pyrrolidinyl]-6- quinolinyl)-5-phenyl-2-pyrimidine carboxamide,
(4) N-[2-(6-acetyldecahydropyrrolo[3,4-d]azepin-2-yl)-6- quinolinyl]-5-phenyl-2-pyrimidine carboxamide,
(5) N-[2-[(3R)-3-[acetyl(methyl)amino]-1-pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-5-phenyl-2-pyrimidine carboxamide,
(6) 5-phenyl-N-(2-[(3R)-3-[propionyl(methyl)amino]-1- pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-2-pyrimidine carboxamide,

(7) N-(2-[(3R)-3-[methanesulfonyl(methyl)amino]-1-pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-5-phenyl-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,
(8) N-(2-[(3R)-3-[methoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino-1- pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-5-phenyl-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,
(9) N-(2-[(3R)-3-[[(dimethylamino)carbonyl)](methyl)amino]-1-pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-5-phenyl-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,
(10) N-(2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-6-quinolinyl)-5-phenyl-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,
(11) 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(2-[(3R)-3-[isobutyryl(methyl)amino]-1-pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,
(12) N-(2-[(3R)-3-[acetyl(methyl)amino]-1-pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-pyrimidine carboxamide,
(13) 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(2-[methyl(tetrahydro-3-furanyl)amino]-6-quinolinyl)-2-pyrimidine carboxamide and
(14) 5-(3-fluorophenyl)-N-(2-[(3R)-3-[isobutyryl(methyl)amino]-1-pyrrolidinyl]-6-quinolinyl)-2-pyrimidine carboxamide,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 22. (new) A method of antagonizing the melanin concentrating hormone receptor in a subject in need of such antagonism comprising administering to the subject 0.01 – 400 mg per day of a compound according to Claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 23. (new) A method of preventing or treating a condition selected from: metabolic disorders, cardiovascular disorders, central nervous system or peripheral nervous system disorders, reproductive disorders, digestive disorders, respiratory disorders, cancer, and pigmentation, comprising administration to a person in need of such prevention or treatment of an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

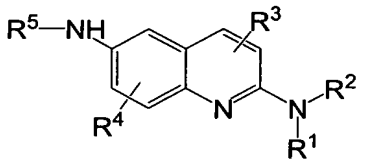
Claim 24. (new) The method according to Claim 23, wherein:
metabolic disorders are selected from: obesity, diabetes, hormone disorder, hyperlipidemia, gout, fatty liver, hepatitis and cirrhosis;
cardiovascular disorders are selected from: stenocardia, acute or congestive heart failure, myocardial infarction , coronary atherosclerosis, hypertension, renal diseases and electrolyte abnormality;
central nervous system or peripheral nervous system disorders are selected from: bulimia, emotional disturbance, depression, anxiety, epilepsy, delirium, dementia, schizophrenia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, memory impairment, sleep disorders, cognitive failure, dyskinesia, paresthesias, smell disorders, morphine tolerance, drug dependence and alcoholism; and
reproductive disorders are selected from: infertility, preterm labor and sexual dysfunction.

Claim 25. (new) A method for treating obesity in a human subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to the human subject of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 26. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 14, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 27. (new) A process for preparing the compound of general formula [I] of Claim 14, wherein: R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8 and n have the same significations as given in Claim 14,

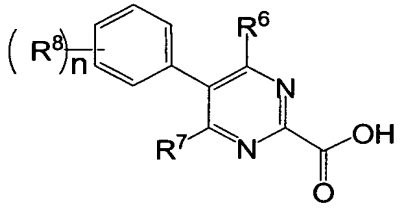
which comprises the step of subjecting a compound of a general formula [II]:



[II]

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as defined in Claim 14;

and a compound of a general formula [III]



[III]

wherein R^6, R^7, R^8 and n are as defined in Claim 14;

to an amidation reaction.